Docket No.: PF-0169-2 CON

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring ~~polypeptide comprising an~~ amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and

d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 comprising an amino acid sequence [[,]] ~~having a sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 1.

4. (Original) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.

5. (Original) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 4.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and

b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

8. (Original) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.

9. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

b) a naturally occurring polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

c) a polynucleotide having a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide of a),

d) a polynucleotide having a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide of b) and

e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

10. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 9.

11. (Original) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 9, the method comprising:

a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

12. (Original) A method of claim 11, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

13. (Original) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 9, the method comprising:

a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

14. (Original) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 14, wherein the polypeptide comprises ~~has~~ an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and

b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

18.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and

b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

21.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, under conditions suitable for the expression of the target polynucleotide,

b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide, and

c) comparing the expression of the target polynucleotide in the presence of varying amounts of the compound and in the absence of the compound.

26. (Original) A method for assessing toxicity of a test compound, said method comprising:

a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound;

b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 9 under conditions whereby a specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 9 or fragment thereof;

c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex; and

d) comparing the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample with the amount of hybridization complex in an untreated biological sample, wherein a difference in the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample is indicative of toxicity of the test compound.

27.-42. (Canceled)

43. (Original) A microarray wherein at least one element of the microarray is a polynucleotide of claim 10.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Original) An array comprising different nucleotide molecules affixed in distinct physical locations on a solid substrate, wherein at least one of said nucleotide molecules comprises a first oligonucleotide or polynucleotide sequence specifically hybridizable with at least 30 contiguous nucleotides of a target polynucleotide, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of claim 9.

46.-51. (Canceled)